

**Hog Division**

The third section of the hog division was rebuilt during the past year, at a cost of \$70,000.00, exclusive of another new scale in this division. The construction of this section was made to conform with the previous sections of hog sheds, being paved with concrete, making a neat, sanitary floor for the feeding of shelled corn, the pens arranged in a symmetrical manner, with ample alley facilities enabling shippers to get their stock about the yards in the least possible time, without congestion. The roofs of the hog division are of the "saw-tooth" variety, being constructed of steel posts supporting the steel roof trusses, these being covered with a patented steel reinforcing netting for the concrete roof. The peculiar character and construction of the roofs, which are set high above the floors, allows abundance of light and good fresh air to circulate throughout the entire hog division. Not only has the roofing feature of this division received particular attention, but the laying of the concrete floors as well have been so designed that the drainage in each pen and alley is perfect—ample large sewers leading from each pen, carrying off all waste matter, etc. Each day, after the rush of business is over, the pens are thoroughly slushed and left in a "spick and span" condition for the next morning's stock run.

In the rebuilding of the hog yards it was the endeavor of the management to so construct the same as to eliminate all congestion, and this was brought about by placing the "scale" and "packers" pens in two distinct divisions, and having all scales placed in the main alley separating these two divisions, and in this manner eliminating the doubling back of stock when it had passed over the scales. In fact the arrangement is such that it secures the greatest efficiency possible in the handling of hogs, and this feature in itself means more net money to the hog shippers.

**Sheep Division**

The sheep department was amply provided for during the year 1914, and therefore was in excellent shape to care for the largest total receipts of sheep ever received at South Omaha in one year since the organization of the yards. However, it is fast being demonstrated that South Omaha will, ere long, become the greatest sheep market in the world, there being but one other market that yet receives a greater number of sheep than here, that being Chicago, which received but 200,000 head more than at the local market.

**Horse and Mule Department**

During the past two years the horse and mule business has been carried on in the most elaborate and modernly constructed barn located at any public live stock market. The facilities here have attracted the attention of horsemen, not only from all parts of the United States, but South Omaha has been the center of attraction for the supply of war horses, the English and French governments having held inspections here practically each day since the first day of January, 1915. So great has this particular branch of the horse business been that it became necessary to expend an additional \$10,000.00 for the grading and construction of additional facilities in connection with the barn to provide adequate equipment for the proper handling of the large volume of horses that were daily inspected by the various warring governments.

**Underground Driveways**

"Eliminate congestion" in the handling of all classes of stock, has been the watchword in the rebuilding of the various departments of the yards. How to get the stock out of the yards after being purchased and weighed to the different packers, without congesting the alleys and drives, delaying incoming stock, has always been a puzzle in years past. This puzzle, however, has been solved since the construction, under the hog division, a year ago, of a most modern, concrete subway, or underground drive, leading to two of the large packing houses. This drive is well sewered

and electric lighted, provided with an ample number of gates to insure the safe and speedy handling of the stock, and once the stock is driven into the subway, the matter of congestion is entirely lost.

The second subway or underground drive leading to another of the large packing houses, has just been completed at a cost of approximately \$12,000.00, this subway stretching the entire width of the hog division, with lateral driveways leading to it from the unloading chutes, as well as from the scales and main alleys.

These subways are constructed in a most permanent manner and with a view of efficiency and dispatch for the handling of stock.

**1916 Improvements**

The matter of improvements and betterments during the coming year have been gone over thoroly and the

necessary appropriations made for the expenditure of over \$200,000 during this period.

Another section of the model hog yards will be added to conform with the previously built portions, which will entail the outlay of about \$98,000.00. A large portion of the present sheep barn will be paved with concrete. Altho the sheep barn pens are not exposed to the elements, it has been deemed expedient to pave a portion of the pens, which will give the sheep shippers the finest arranged marketing facilities possible. Additional cattle pens will be provided during 1916, at an approximate cost of \$30,000.00. To insure the proper protection for the storing of hay for feeding purposes, a large hay barn will be constructed, with an approximate storage capacity of 2,500 tons. This item will cause an expenditure

of \$16,000.00. In addition to these large expenditures, a great many smaller improvements will be made, all with the view of keeping the South Omaha yards in the foreground as to modern facilities and equipment.

**Make Stability the Aim.**

"In summer or winter," said the proud advertisement of an old steamboat line, "In summer and winter, in storm and calm, the Commonwealth and the Plymouth Rock invariably make the passage;" and this should be the truth about you and me.—Prof. Le Baron Russell Briggs.

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